

City Council Meeting with Boulder County State Legislators

Friday, December 15, 2017

Library Meeting Room

951 Spruce Street

7:30 AM

(Entry on northwest corner of Library)

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Discussion - 2018 Louisville Legislative Agenda

City of Louisville

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Legislative Agenda 2018



Photo By: Joseph Falace

Louisville 2018 Legislative Issues

(in no particular order)

Home Rule/Local Control

The City supports local control and maintaining home rule authority. In general, the City believes local problems are best addressed at the local level and the current authority and powers of municipal governments such as land use, zoning, personnel matters, sales tax, etc. should not be diminished.

Position:

- The City urges state officials to respect Colorado’s tradition of local control and allow municipal officials to address local problems without state interference.
- The City supports maintaining home rule authority to regulate oil and gas development within our communities, and codifying best management practices to mitigate operator impacts, including clarifying the minimum distance required for oil and gas operations as 1,000 feet from school property lines and not school buildings.
- The City supports the reestablishment of the right for local government entities to provide better telecommunication services for our businesses and residents.
- The City supports additional resources for local broadband deployment, but opposes efforts to tie broadband deployment funds to preemptions that take away local, voter-approved authority.

Tax & Finance Policy

The City supports a fair and consistent state tax policy that respects the authority of local governments, and opposes state exemptions that erode municipal sales taxes, use taxes, property taxes, and other revenue sources.

Position:

- The City supports fiscally responsible government spending, but believes it is important to address the layers of constraints on state and local government budgets resulting from the Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR).
- The City opposes legislation that preempts local authority to impose and collect sales and use taxes.
- The City supports cooperative efforts among municipalities to standardize sales and use tax practices and utilize technology for the convenience of taxpayers, the business community and municipalities while maintaining constitutional authority to set tax policy and local administration.
- The City opposes state-granted exemptions or other state actions that erode municipal sales taxes, use taxes, property taxes, and other revenue sources unless the state provides adequate replacement revenues.
- The City supports equitable sharing with municipalities of existing and future state revenues derived from state-collected, locally shared revenues, such as the Cigarette Tax, Highway Users Tax Fund, Lottery funds, and Marijuana tax funds.
- The City supports the reauthorization of the Colorado Lottery and Great Outdoors Colorado funding, which helps support our local Parks, Recreation and Open Space programs.
- The City supports efforts to restore the distribution of retail marijuana tax funds to the Regional Transportation District (RTD) and Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), as was originally approved by the voters.

Public Health & Safety

The City supports law enforcement and municipal court policies that ensure public health and safety, thereby improving the quality of life in partnership with the community.

Position:

- The City supports opportunities to mitigate costs for municipalities that provide healthcare for persons in custody, and legislation that amends current statute requiring municipalities to cover the cost of medical treatment for suspects while in custody.
- The City supports state funding for municipalities to provide counsel at an initial appearance in municipal court.
- The City opposes legislation that would prohibit the use of red light cameras and speed radar.
- The City supports legislation that establishes a statewide minimum definition of “open and public consumption” and allows for locally approved consumption permits (opt-in) connected with a medical marijuana or retail marijuana license.
- The City supports the preservation of air quality and reduction of emissions through increased enforcement and penalties related to statewide air quality regulations.

Energy/Environment

The City supports legislation to address climate change by improving energy efficiency, increasing use of renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels while maintaining local control and authority for implementation.

Position:

- The City supports the development of a balanced, long-term statewide energy plan with an overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption, increasing the use of clean energy and transitioning away from fossil fuels.
- The City supports the creation and expansion of statewide climate change mitigation goals that provide targets and incentives for the implementation of renewable energy strategies without imposing any unfunded state

mandates on local governments.

- The City supports the pursuit of policies that reduce overall energy demand and consumption, while respecting local authority in implementing such policies.
- The City supports legislation that incentivizes green building and sustainable design for residential, commercial and industrial properties without imposing unfunded mandates.
- The City supports efforts to reduce emissions sufficient to meet federal air quality standards.

Transportation

Colorado’s transportation infrastructure, which connects our communities and facilitates the movement of people and goods, is vital to the economic vitality of our state and necessary to maintain the high quality of life enjoyed by Coloradans.

Position:

- The City supports one or more new, designated state funding sources for transportation that are not reliant on the State General Fund.
- The City supports investments in the maintenance and expansion of the state and regional transportation network, including roads, bridges and transit projects, as well as improved multi-modal strategies that increase transportation options, improve mobility and reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.
- The City supports completion of the Northwest Rail line, including phased implementation strategies such as initial Peak Hour operations, and the pursuit of additional/creative financing mechanisms to launch service sooner than 2042.
- The City opposes the use of Highway Users Tax Fund for non-transportation line items.
- The City supports increased funding with greater flexibility for multi-modal transportation systems and programs.
- The City opposes legislation to transfer maintenance responsibility of state-owned roads to municipalities without adequate short and long-term funding to meet these additional responsibilities.
- The City opposes the unilateral authority by counties to reduce the municipal share of road and bridge property taxes without input from local communities.
- The City supports new bonding or other borrowing for transportation projects only if there are new or existing designated sources of funding identified to pay off those obligations.
- The City opposes efforts to preempt local authority to determine the most appropriate truck routes through local jurisdictions.

Utilities

The City supports policies that protect Colorado’s natural resources and allow the City to maintain facilities efficiently, allowing for reasonable and equitable rates while maintaining optimal quality.

Position:

- The City supports the inventorying and protection of water rights.
- The City supports appropriate water conservation efforts and sustainable water resource management practices by all users.
- The City supports efforts to improve water quality through compliance with state and federal regulations.
- The City supports efforts to better facilitate water use agreements between municipal water providers, without having to acquire water court approval.
- The City supports appropriate coordination of municipal water use with other uses, including agriculture, mineral resource development, energy development, recreation and open space.
- The City supports stakeholder input and involvement in developing laws and regulations related to water and wastewater issues.
- The City supports removing the 20-year limit on water pollution control loans authorized by the Colorado Water Resources/Power Development Authority and allowing for loans up to 30 years.

Land Use/Development/Revitalization

The City has a long-standing commitment to managed growth. The City believes strongly that local control and land use planning enhance our ability to meet the goals/mission of the City Comprehensive Plan and improve the overall quality of life. In addition, the City is working to redevelop and revitalize certain areas within the community, and appropriate urban renewal tools must be preserved to support these efforts.

Position:

- The City supports policies that improve the coordination of land use and transportation.
- The City supports regional cooperation in land use planning and economic development activities.
- The City opposes any efforts that limit local government authority to regulate land development.
- The City supports legislation that facilitates the creation of locally approved Transit-Oriented Developments (TOD).
- The City supports the creation and financing of statewide affordable housing mechanisms, such as the affordable housing trust fund, that would bolster local and regional efforts to increase affordable housing.
- The City supports enhancements to urban renewal law that do not unreasonably restrict the use of tax increment financing or eminent domain for redevelopment projects.
- The City supports legislation that encourages and facilitates historic preservation and rehabilitation.